

**Cultural and Historic Affairs Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2014**

The Bethany Beach Cultural and Historic Affairs Committee held a meeting at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 14, 2014 in the Bethany Beach Town Meeting Room, 214 Garfield Parkway, Bethany Beach, DE 19930.

Members present: Carol Olmstead, who presided; Cathy Davis; Vicky Drury; Jan Kinsella; Theo Loppatto; Mary Lou Urquhart; and Margaret Young.

Excused members: Mary Lou McNerney and Laren Hughes-Carmean, Entertainment Director.

Also present: Don Sharp, musician/performer for upcoming Cultural Evening; and Lindsey Good, Administrative Secretary.

Call to Order

Ms. Olmstead called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from November 18, 2013 Meeting

After a couple of corrections, Ms. Loppatto made a motion to approve the minutes dated November 13, 2013 as amended. Ms. Davis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Announcements

Ms. Olmstead reported that the plaque for the “Taking Flight” sculpture that was donated by the Worthington family is currently being completed and should be shipped on Friday. There was a slight delay due to inclement weather in Connecticut, where the plaque is being created. Once the plaque is delivered, the Public Works Director, Brett Warner will install it next to the sculpture which is displayed in the Town Hall WiFi Park. The cost of the plaque was \$318.00.

Discussion on Cultural Evening for February

Ms. Olmstead explained that a former CHAC Committee member, Carolyn Hughes, recently passed away in November. Ms. Hughes’ son-in-law and a talented musician, Don Sharp, has asked that CHAC hold a concert/Cultural Evening in memory of her, in which during he will be performing. Mr. Sharp is proposing that the event be called “Concert for Carolyn”, and to feature her favorite type of music – songs from the 1930’s. He noted that he will be accompanied by other musicians as well.

Ms. Olmstead expressed that this is a great idea for a Cultural Evening in the downstairs meeting room at Town Hall. She noted that Mr. Sharp has performed at a couple previous Cultural Events, and it was very well-attended and enjoyable.

The “Concert for Carolyn” Cultural Evening will take place on Thursday, February 13th, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. There will be refreshments available and the concert will last about an hour and a half.

Ms. Carmean will advertise the event by displaying posters around the Town and also posting an ad in the local newspapers. Mr. Sharp will provide a biography on Carolyn Hughes to include in the advertisement.

Mr. Sharp expressed his appreciation to the Committee for supporting this event. He told them to feel free to contact him with any questions.

The Committee members feel that the concert will be very nice and enjoyable, and is a wonderful way to honor Carolyn Hughes.

Discussion Regarding Previous Suggestions for Promoting Town Museum

Ms. Olmstead stated that at the previous meeting, Ms. Carmean provided two ideas for promoting the Town Museum: 1.) Develop a video about the Museum to display on the kiosk in the lobby. 2.) Create a blog about the Museum to link from the Town's website. The Committee came up with the following ideas on topics that Ms. Carmean can include on the blog:

- List of Museum artifacts.
- Current Events
- History of Bethany Beach
- Information about CHAC.
- Bethany Beach Heritage Trail: Can include information on where brochures are available; Certain houses can be highlighted on the blog from time to time.
- Recent donations to the Museum.
- Interactive blog for historical photographs.
- News articles of interest from Newspaper Article Album (historical articles about Bethany Beach).
- Photos of events.

Ms. Olmstead will give these ideas to Ms. Carmean so she can begin creating the blog.

Review and Update Lists of CHAC Accomplishments and Museum Artifacts

Ms. Olmstead distributed a list of CHAC Accomplishments that she came up with. The Committee reviewed the list and decided that the following items need to be added:

- Partnered with other nearby towns to present the Smithsonian Exhibit.
- DELDOT signage on Route 1 to advertise Museum.
- Received Town Council approval for establishing the date of July 27th as the annual celebration of "Periers Day" in Bethany Beach.
- Installed historical marker honoring Henry Clay Drexler at the Loop Canal Park.
- Sculpture donation from the Worthington Family – CHAC arranged for the sculpture to be donated and provided a plaque.
- Donated \$2,500 to the Clayton Theatre.
- Updated the Bethany Beach Heritage Trail brochure.
- Arranged for dock to be built at the Loop Canal for its 100th Anniversary.
- Created News Article Album of the historical newspaper articles about Bethany Beach.

Ms. Olmstead noted that the Committee needs to work on cleaning the historical plaques around Town in the spring time.

Ms. Kinsella questioned the status of the project of the note cards on historical houses. Ms. Olmstead replied that this project is currently on hold. She will check with the Town Manager, Cliff Gravier, on whether items can be sold and purchased at the front window in the lobby/Museum. If so, the Committee should pursue the note card project so they can be an item to sell.

Ms. Davis suggested that Museum items can be sold during Cultural Events. Ms. Olmstead stated that she will look into this as a possibility. She added that if any members think of any good ideas for Cultural Event topics, to let her know so more events can be scheduled.

Ms. Olmstead will add all of the accomplishments that were discussed at today's meeting, and bring the draft to the next meeting.

Ms. Urquhart noted that she has a shingle of Campbell Hall of Christian Church that was recently demolished, which can be displayed in the Museum. She will bring it with her to the next meeting.

Discussion, Possible Update, and Reaffirmation of CHAC Mission Statement

The members reviewed the current CHAC Purpose Statement/Mission Statement.

Ms. Kinsella made the following recommendations: The letter "C" in the text "Cultural" should be capitalized. The text "town sponsored" should be "town-sponsored".

Ms. Olmstead called for a motion at this time. Ms. Loppatto made a motion to approve the Bethany Beach Cultural and Historical Affairs Committee (CHAC) Mission Statement as amended. Ms. Davis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Discussion Regarding Sub-Committees for Various CHAC Projects

Ms. Olmstead provided an update on the News Article Album project. The project has been moving forward, and she, Ms. Kinsella and Ms. Urquhart have been working hard towards completing it. The album consists of news articles about Bethany Beach dating back to the 1960s.

She explained that projects such as this one take a lot of time and effort, and there are many projects on hold right now, which is why the idea of creating sub-committees of CHAC is being considered. Members can volunteer to participate on the sub-committees.

The following projects were discussed and sub-committees were established:

- Label/plaques for the pictures of historical houses in Bethany Beach hanging on the wall in the Town Hall: Ms. Drury and Ms. Loppatto will work on this project as a sub-committee. They will research the best way to display the pictures/labels on the wall, and report back to CHAC.

- Museum needs and updates attended to on regular basis. Ms. Young and Ms. Davis volunteered to serve on this sub-committee.
- Historical markers: A couple of members will need to go around Town and record addresses of homes that may be historical. Then the administrative staff can verify in the system to see what year the house was built.
- Note cards: This project will be put on hold for now.

Oral History

The Committee viewed a video submitted by Dr. Bob Parsons of his early years in Bethany Beach parts of which might be included in the Oral History Project. Ms. Olmstead noted that Ms. Carmean is very close to completing the project.

The Committee agreed to hold CHAC meetings at 2:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 11th, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lindsey Good, Admin. Secretary